

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05716 120533Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 ACDA-10 /091 W

----- 101930

R 111425Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE 6811

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS KUWAIT 5716

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: YE, PFOR

SUBJECT: NORTH YEMENI MINISTER OF STATE TALKS TO KUWAITI PRESS

1. YAR MINISTER OF STATE, MOHAMAD SALEM BASANDUH, SPENT DECEMBER 7-10 IN KUWAIT WHERE HIS REPORTED MISSION WAS TO DELIVER A MESSAGE ON "ENEMY" VIOLATIONS OF YEMENI AIR SPACE. HIS REMARKS TO LOCAL PRESS ON SEVERAL OTHER SUBJECTS MAY BE WORTHY OF NOTE:

A. RESPONDING TO A PRESS QUESTION ON THE LACK OF YAR PARTICIPATION IN THE RECENT MUSCAT CONFERENCE OF GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS, BASANDUH REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED THAT "IT IS NOT FAIR" THAT YEMEN IS NOT A PARTICIPANT MEMBER IN GULF REGIONAL MEETINGS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ALLUDED TO OTHER NON-GULF PARTICIPATION (OMAN?) AT THE MUSCAT CONFERENCE, REMARKED THAT "WE WERE NOT INVITED" IN SPITE OF THE DESIRES OF SOME "ARAB BROTHERS" TO SEE YAR DELEGATION THERE, AND QUOTED LAWRENCE OF ARABIA ON THE FOLLY OF OVERLOOKING YEMEN ("THE ARABS WILL NOT RISE WITHOUT YEMEN").

B. ON THE QUESTION OF SAUDI-YEMEN COORDINATION TO MEET ISRAELI INTRUSIONS, THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THEIR BILATERAL

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 05716 120533Z

"HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE" MEETS TWICE YEARLY AND SEES

TO THIS.

C. RESPONDING TO A REPORTERS ASSERTION THAT THE YAR BUYS
ALL OF ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE WEST, BASANDUH SAID THAT
THE YAR FAVORS AND ADHERES TO THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVERSIFICATION
OF ARMS PURCHASES, NOTING THAT IT IS "NOT STRANGE" THAT IS HAS
EASTERN AS WELL AS WESTERN ARMS.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

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